REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending. Claims 1, 11 and 21 are amended herein.

103(a) Rejections

Claims 1, 6, 8-11, 16, 18-21, 26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thessin et al. ("Thessin;" US 5,452,299). Applicant has reviewed the cited reference and respectfully submits that the present invention as recited in Claims 1, 6, 8-11, 16, 18-21, 26 and 28 is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Thessin.

Applicant respectfully agrees with the Examiner's statement in the instant Office Action that Thessin does not disclose a user interface with flexible layers such that the movement of one or more the layers causes the display to change. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide a reference showing the limitations recited by independent Claims 1, 11 and 21.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully asserts that Thessin does not show or suggest "a user interface ... comprising a plurality of flexible layers of material coupled along an edge in a stack; wherein movement of one or more of said flexible layers causes said display to change in a prescribed manner" as recited in independent Claim 1. Applicant also respectfully asserts that Thessin does not show or suggest a method comprising "detecting movement of one or more flexible layers of a user interface, wherein said user interface comprises a plurality of flexible layers of material coupled along an edge in a stack; and ... translating said movement into a prescribed change to said display" as recited in independent Claim 11. In addition, Applicant respectfully asserts that Thessin

does not show or suggest "a user interface ... comprising a plurality of flexible layers of material in a stack coupled to ... [a] housing; wherein movement of one or more of said flexible layers causes said display to change in a prescribed manner" as recited in independent Claim 21.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's statement that the "software organization" of Thessin provides a user interface with flexible layers of material. Applicant respectfully notes that the claims quite clearly are not describing layers of software. Applicant respectfully submits that Thessin does not show or suggest "flexible layers of material coupled along an edge in a stack" or "flexible layers of material in a stack coupled to ... [a] housing," as recited by the claims. In addition, Applicant respectfully notes that Thessin does not show or suggest that "movement of one or more of said flexible layers causes said display to change in a prescribed manner" or a method comprising "translating said movement into a prescribed change to said display" as recited in the claims.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 11 and 21 traverse the Examiner's basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and that these claims are in condition for allowance. Claims 6 and 8-10 are dependent on Claim 1; Claims 16 and 18-20 are dependent on Claim 11; and Claims 26 and 28 are dependent on Claim 21. Accordingly, Applicant also respectfully submits that Claims 6, 8-10, 16, 18-20, 26 and 28 traverse the Examiner's basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as these claims are dependent on allowable base claims and recite additional limitations.

Claims 2-5, 7, 12-15, 17, 22-25 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thessin in view of Campbell et al. ("Campbell;" US 5,920,703). Applicant has reviewed the cited references and respectfully submits that the present invention as recited in Claims 2-5, 7, 12-15, 17, 22-25 and 27 is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Thessin and Campbell, alone or in combination.

As described above, Applicant respectfully submits that Thessin does not show or suggest the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 11 and 21. Claims 2-5 and 7 are dependent on Claim 1; Claims 12-15 and 17 are dependent on Claim 11; and Claims 22-25 and 27 are dependent on Claim 21.

Applicant respectfully asserts that Campbell does not overcome the shortcomings of Thessin. Campbell, alone or in combination with Thessin, does not show or suggest "a user interface ... comprising a plurality of flexible layers of material coupled along an edge in a stack; wherein movement of one or more of said flexible layers causes said display to change in a prescribed manner" as recited in independent Claim 1. Applicant also respectfully asserts that Campbell, alone or in combination with Thessin, does not show or suggest a method comprising "detecting movement of one or more flexible layers of a user interface, wherein said user interface comprises a plurality of flexible layers of material coupled along an edge in a stack; and ... translating said movement into a prescribed change to said display" as recited in independent Claim 11. In addition, Applicant respectfully asserts that Campbell, alone or in combination with Thessin, does not show or suggest "a user interface ... comprising a plurality of flexible layers of material in a stack coupled to ... [a] housing; wherein

movement of one or more of said flexible layers causes said display to change in a prescribed manner" as recited in Claim 21.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's statement that, according to Campbell, "software provides the desired bending deflection and separation of layers."

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Thessin and Campbell, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 11 and 21. As such, Applicant further submits that Thessin and Campbell, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the present invention as recited in Claims 2-5, 7, 12-15, 17, 22-25 and 27, and that these claims traverse the Examiner's basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as these claims are dependent on allowable base claims and recite additional limitations.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected Claims.

Based on the arguments presented above, Applicant respectfully asserts that Claims 1-28 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicant respectfully solicits allowance of these Claims.

Applicant has reviewed the references that were cited but not relied upon. Applicant did not find these references to show or suggest the present claimed invention: US 6,188,391; US 6,313,762; US 6,429,846; and US 5,900,877.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 12/23/02

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A computer system comprising:

a bus;

a processor coupled to said bus;

a display device coupled to said bus, said display device operable to provide a display; and

a user interface coupled to said bus and for controlling said display, said user interface comprising a plurality of flexible layers of material coupled along an edge in a stack;

wherein movement of one or more of said flexible layers causes said display to change in a prescribed manner.

11. (Once Amended) A method for controlling a display in a computer system, said method comprising the steps of:

a) generating a display on a display device;

b) detecting movement of one or more flexible layers of a user interface, wherein said user interface comprises a plurality of flexible layers of material coupled along an edge in a stack; and

c) translating said movement into a prescribed change to said display.

21. (Once Amended) A portable computer system comprising:

a housing;

a bus disposed within said housing;

a processor coupled to said bus;

a display device coupled to said bus, said display device operable to provide a display; and

a user interface coupled to said bus and for controlling said display, said user interface comprising a plurality of flexible layers of material in a stack coupled to said housing;

wherein movement of one or more of said flexible layers causes said display to change in a prescribed manner.